

News of the Week.

FRIDAY.

In the House of Representatives yesterday, Sir Julius Vogel gave notice to introduce the Hospital and Charitable Aid Bill, Finance Powers, bill to Abolish Duty on Gold.—The following bills were introduced:—A bill to define the hours of labour within the Colony of New Zealand (Mr. Bradshaw); a bill to extend the hours of polling at Parliamentary Elections (Mr. Barron), the Presbyterian Church Property Bill (the Hon. R. Stout), The Representation Act 1881 Amendment Bill (the Hon. R. Stout), The Bible-reading-in-Schools Bill (Mr. W. D. Stewart), the Alienation of Land Bill (Mr. Conolly).

It is announced that in the new Cabinet the Marquis of Salisbury will be Secretary of State of the Foreign Department, Lord Randolph Churchill Secretary of State for India, and Sir Michael Hicks-Beach will be Chancellor of the Exchequer and leader in the House of Commons.

Cholera is spreading in Murcia, and it is estimated that fully 30,000 of the inhabitants have left that province.

SATURDAY.

In the House of Representatives yesterday the following bills were introduced and read a first time:—The Evidence Amendment Bill (Mr. Steward), a Bill to Amend the Armed Constabulary Act 1867 (Mr. Guinness), The Counties Act 1876 Amendment Bill (Hon. R. Stout), a bill to amend the Licensing Acts (Mr. Steward), the Hospitals and Charitable Aid Bill (Hon. Sir J. Vogel), the Local Bodies Finance and Powers Bill (Hon. Sir J. Vogel), a Bill to Abolish the Duty on Gold (Hon. Sir J. Vogel), a Bill to Amend the Law of Distress for Rent (Mr. Garrick).

Some coarse shotty gold has been brought to Auckland. It is said to have been discovered in a creek near Ortorohanga, on the Waipara, near the route of the Trunk railway. It was sent down by Mr Heaps, a settler near Alexandra.

William Sheehan, who was arrested near Auckland on the charge of murder of his mother, sister, and brother at Castletown-Roche, and subsequently remanded Home, has been brought up charged with that offence, and has been committed for trial.

The following constitute the new Cabinet submitted by the Marquis of Salisbury to the Queen:—First Lord of the Treasury and Premier, the Marquis of Salisbury. Lord High Chancellor, Sir Harding Gifford. President of the Privy Council, Sir Stafford Northcote. Secretary of State for the Colonies, the right Hon. F. Stanley. Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Lord Salisbury. Home Secretary, Sir Richard Cross. Secretary of State for India, Lord Churchill. Secretary of State for War, Mr. W. G. Smith. Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach. First Lord of the Admiralty, Lord George Hamilton. Postmaster-general, Lord John Manners. Chief Secretary for Ireland, Earl of Carnarvon. The Office of Lord Privy Seal has not yet been filled.

MONDAY.

Three very sharp shocks of earthquake occurred at 1 30 p.m. on Saturday at Ross accompanied by a loud rumbling noise.

The transport Arab, with the New South Wales contingent, arrived at Sydney on Friday night, and will be placed in quarantine until Tuesday.

All the Australasian Colonies have sent representatives to take part in the official reception of the troops on Tuesday.

A disastrous explosion of firedamp took place on Friday in a colliery of Pendlebury, near Manchester. Twenty-two men were killed at once, and 140 more are now entombed without the slightest chance of rescue.

News from Port Said states that a hitch has occurred in the works for the removal of the obstruction in the Suez Canal, which threatens to seriously delay the re-opening. The channels are blocked up with vessels wanting to pass the Canal Homewards or outwards.

Earl Carnarvon will be Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and Mr. Arthur Balfour Chief Secretary.

The cholera continues to increase rapidly in the south-east of Spain. During the past few days no less than 2000 cases, 800 of which had ended fatally, have been reported from the provinces of Valencia, Castellon, de la Plata, and Murcia. A few deaths have occurred in this city. A very general feeling of alarm prevails.

In the House of Commons on Friday Mr. Gladstone moved that the House be further adjourned until Tuesday next, which was carried. In the House of Lords the Marquis of Salisbury moved a similar adjournment, as he was not yet able to make his promised Statement. Referring to the Redistribution of Seats Bill, he stated that the Government objected to its being proceeded with, because its passing would prevent a dissolution before November. A motion to postpone consideration of the measure was subsequently passed by a large majority. Mr. Gladstone hesitates as to the acceptance of a policy of neutrality. Mr. Arthur Balfour will take the office of the President of the local Government Board.

Lord Derby, in responding to a farewell address presented to him by the several Agents-general, stated that Australia had, during his term of office, acquired 60,000 miles of territory in New Guinea. He admitted, in spite of interminable difficulties, the advantage of consulting the Agents-general on matters regarding the colonies.

The political deadlock still continues, Lord Salisbury demanding to monopolise the House until the prorogation of Parliament, and also insisting that the Liberal party shall forbear from attacking the Budget proposals.

The late Ministry have now vacated the seats on the Treasury benches. It is believed that Mr. Gladstone will resign his seat in the House of Commons.

It is announced that Sir Stafford Northcote takes the position of First Lord of the Treasury, and not Lord Salisbury, as previously

telegraphed. The Premiership, however, will not as usual be combined with this office, but will be assumed by the Marquis of Salisbury. Mr. Edward Clarke, Q.C., has been appointed Attorney-general, Mr. Gorst Solicitor-general, and the Hon. Edward Stanhope President of the Board of Trade. A request made by Lord Salisbury, that the Liberal party should give him an assurance of support in carrying on the business of the country, has not been acceded to. Parliament re-assembled on Friday after the adjournment. The late Ministry have not yet vacated the Treasury benches, and the position of Liberal and Conservative members respectively in the House is unchanged at present. The nomination of Lord Randolph Churchill to the portfolio of Secretary of State for India is strongly censured, and the Marquis of Salisbury is blamed for yielding to and accepting his advice regarding the formation of the Cabinet.

TUESDAY.

The Wellington correspondent of the *Daily Times* wires as follows:—The Gold Export Duty Abolition (Sir Julius Vogel) is a short bill of four clauses. It provides that no export duties shall be leviable on gold produced in the Colony after the expiration of two calendar months after the passing of this Act, though all gold obtained before or within such two months is subject to duty; and the exporter must make a declaration before the collector of customs as to when the gold was obtained. This section of the Act is only intended to be operative for 12 months. For a false declaration there is a penalty of £500 or two years' imprisonment.

Great dissatisfaction is felt in Riverton at the stoppage of the through daily railway service from Dunedin to the Western district. By the new time-tables trains for the Western district leave Invercargill only three-quarters of an hour before the arrival of the express at Invercargill from Dunedin, consequently passengers and mails are in all cases delayed in Invercargill a night and day, in some cases 24 hours, and in others 48 hours. Deputations and other representations from local bodies have failed to induce the traffic manager at Invercargill to make an alteration, and at a public meeting held on Saturday night it was resolved to petition the Minister of Public Works to get the through daily service continued.

A meeting was held at Napier last night to take preliminary steps towards erecting a memorial to the late John Sheehan. The proposed memorial will take the form of a drinking fountain in Olive square. A committee was formed, including men of all shades of politics, the secretary being one of Mr. Ormond's chief supporters at the last election.

There is no advance in prices for wool, and bidding is irregular, French purchasers being languid. Crossbreds are 1d below the price at the opening of the sales. Greasy, scoured, and merinos are from 3d to 1d below the April sales. Up to date 171,000 bales have been catalogued and 24,000 bales have been withdrawn.

The Russian newspaper *Novoye Vremya* states that in consequence of the Ameer of Afghanistan massing his forces at Amudaria the Russian troops will be compelled to advance on them.

Lord Lyons, British Ambassador at Paris, has refused to accept the assurance given by the French Government that the Recidiviste Bill would not be enforced. Lord Lyons believes that the measure was an electioneering manoeuvre.

Advices from Port Said report that the work of removing the obstruction in the Suez Canal has been carried on with great celerity, with the result that the channel has been opened for the passage of vessels, and traffic resumed.

WEDNESDAY.

In the House of Representatives yesterday the following bills were introduced.—Seamen's Representation Bill (Mr. Bruce), Stamp Duties Act Amendment Bill, Deceased Persons' Estates Duties Bill, Property Assessment Bill (Hon. Mr. Stout), Bill to amend "The Gaming and Lotteries Act 1881" (Mr. Hobbs).—Sir Julius Vogel moved the second reading of the Local Finance and Powers Bill. He said the first point he wished to call attention to was that an amount of £300,000 should be set apart for 25 years for local bodies. For the present year he proposed that only half subsidy should be paid to those bodies. He then explained at some length the main provisions of the bill and schedule. He said it was proposed that goldfields counties should receive a special grant for five years of £200,000 per annum. For the first five years the amount of the subsidies would be taken from the Public Works Fund. After that they would be taken from the general Consolidated Fund. He did not think a fairer method of apportioning those subsidies could be devised than the one now proposed, and if it were possible to make the system permanent the Government would endeavour to do so. Powers were also given in the bill for counties and road districts to amalgamate for the purpose of carrying out any particular work. The bill further proposed to abolish the gold duty and to establish instead a proposal which he thought would greatly assist the mining industry. One very important feature in the bill was that the request for district railways should come from the local bodies interested. Another feature was that large powers of delegation were given to the Governor, so much so that the present Ministry might be called the Ministry of decentralisation. It was also proposed to repeal the Roads and Bridges Construction Act, but the Government would fulfil all engagements made under that Act. The local bodies were to be held responsible as regarded expenditure of money that would come to them under the bill, and their powers and finance would be of an independent character. By placing in the hands of local bodies the power of opening up the country, it would lead to a large increase of population. Major Atkinson moved the adjournment of the debate till Friday next, which was agreed to.—The Hon. R. Stout moved the second reading of "The Representation Act 1881 Amendment Bill." He said the object of the bill was simply to enable cities like Wellington, Christchurch, Auckland, and Dunedin to amalgamate into one electorate. He adduced several reasons for bringing in the bill, one of which was that if this law had been in force at the last elections, hundreds of men would be placed on the roll for Dunedin over and above those who voted. Men changed their places of residence frequently, and consequently under the